

### 88<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Below is a snapshot of where health center priorities and other important bills landed when the legislature adjourned sine die on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Some passed and are waiting to be signed by the Governor, while others will need continued advocacy efforts over the interim to push the issues forward next session. TACHC will release an updated, comprehensive summary after the June 18<sup>th</sup> deadline for the Governor to veto bills.



### HEALTH CENTER PRIORITIES



#### Fund the FQHC Incubator Program

SB 30 by Joan Huffman

Allocated \$40 million to continue funding for the FQHC Incubator Program.

✔ Passed, sent to the Governor.



#### Extend Postpartum Medicaid Coverage

HB 12 by Toni Rose

Extends postpartum Medicaid coverage from 2 months to 12 months.

✔ Passed, sent to the Governor.



#### FQHC Primary Care Access Pilot

SB 2193 by Morgan LaMantia/ HB 3317 by James Frank

SB 2193 establishes a pilot program to provide uninsured working adults employed at small businesses access to primary care through a value-based care arrangement with FQHCs.

✔ Passed, and signed by the Governor.



#### Expand Remote Patient Monitoring in Medicaid

HB 2727 by Four Price

Reimburses FQHCs for remote patient monitoring in Medicaid and creates a fetal monitoring Medicaid benefit for pregnant women.

✔ Passed, sent to the Governor.



#### Increase Investments in State-Funded Women's Health Program

HB 1, Article II

The state budget includes \$447 million for Family Planning Program, Healthy Texas Women, and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Services Program. Additional funding will support mobile health units and women's health program navigators.

✔ Passed, sent to the Governor.



#### Increase Funding for Provider Loan Repayment Programs

HB 1, Article III

##### Physician Education Loan Repayment Program

The budget added \$6 million to the program to raise it to \$80 million for the biennium.

✔ Passed, sent to the Governor.

##### Mental Health Loan Repayment Program

The legislature raised funding from \$2 million to \$28 million in the biennium.

✔ Passed, sent to the Governor.

### HEALTH CENTER PRIORITIES THAT DID NOT PASS

#### **Increase the Medicaid Behavioral Health Workforce**

HB 1879 by Drew Darby

Allows certain master's level behavioral health providers to be reimbursed by Medicaid while completing clinical hour training requirements, including licensed professional counselor associates, licensed marriage family therapist associates, and licensed master social workers seeking clinical certification.

❌ Passed the House, did not pass Senate.

#### **Healthy Food is Good Medicine Pilot**

HB 2983 by Tom Oliverson

Creates a Medicaid pilot to incorporate "food as medicine" programs for high-risk pregnant women into their medical care and demonstrate the impact on health outcomes and cost savings.

❌ Passed out of House, did not pass Senate.

#### **Express Lane Eligibility**

HB 1599 by John Bucy

Allows HHSC to use already-verified information (e.g., income and household size) to move verified, currently eligible kids to an "express lane" for enrollment in Medicaid or CHIP.

❌ Passed out of House, did not pass Senate.

### OTHER NOTEWORTHY BILLS

#### **Healthcare Itemized Billing**

HB 1973 by Caroline Harris

Requires health care providers requesting payment from patients to provide an itemized bill with the cost of each service and supply within 30 days of receiving final payment from a third party.

**FQHCs are exempt from these requirements and penalties.**

✅ Passed, effective September 1, 2023.

#### **Promote Behavioral Health Workforce Training**

HB 400 by Stephanie Klick

Establishes grant programs to support residency training, recruitment, and retention programs in psychiatric specialty fields. The program will prioritize institutions serving rural or underserved areas.

✅ Passed, sent to the Governor.

#### **Behavioral Health Innovation Grants**

SB 26 by Lois Kolkhorst

Expands mental health capacity through grants to support community-based initiatives to promote the identification of mental health issues and improve access to early intervention and treatment.

✅ Passed, sent to the Governor.